

Glazier interview questions

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What to expect

Glazier interviews check that you can do the physical trade work safely and to code, and that you can handle the judgement calls that come up on site when measurements don't match reality. Expect a mix of technical, safety and on-the-tools questions, plus a check of your licence, white card and any restricted glazing tickets.

- **Process:** Step-by-step questions about how you measure, cut and install glass, testing whether your method matches trade standards.
- **Safety:** Questions on handling large or fragile glass, working at height, and managing hazards on a live construction site.
- **Scenario:** On-the-spot problem scenarios, such as an out-of-spec opening or a cracked pane discovered mid-install, to see how you think under pressure.
- **Behavioural:** Past-experience questions about defects, rework or difficult jobs, usually answered with a specific example.
- **Client-facing:** Questions on handling homeowners or site managers when something doesn't go to plan.

Most glazier interviews open with a check of your ticket, licence and trade background, move into technical and process questions about cutting and installing glass, then shift into a scenario or two to see how you'd handle a problem on site. Safety questions are usually woven in rather than left to the end, and the interview typically closes with a chance for you to ask about the type of work, tools supplied and site locations.

1. Walk me through how you'd measure and cut a glass panel for a non-standard window opening.

Why they ask

Checks that your process matches the core task of the trade and that you understand tolerances and material handling, not just theory.

How to structure your answer

Step-by-step walkthrough: describe measuring the opening, accounting for tolerance and expansion gaps, marking the glass, the cutting method, and the check before installation.

Example answer

"I start by measuring the opening in at least two spots for width and height, since older frames are rarely perfectly square. I note the smallest measurement and build in the standard clearance gap for expansion and the glazing bead. I mark the glass with a straight edge, score it with the glass cutter, and run an edge-finishing tool over the cut to remove any sharp or chipped edges before it goes anywhere near the frame. Before installing I dry-fit the pane to confirm it sits evenly all round with consistent gaps for the sealant."

2. What safety precautions do you take when handling and installing large glass panels on site?

Why they ask

Glass handling carries real injury risk, and glazing is often done alongside other trades on active sites, so employers want to see hazard awareness, not just PPE lip service.

How to structure your answer

Hazard identification followed by the specific control measures you use for each hazard.

Example answer

"Large panels are a two-person lift minimum, and I use suction cups or a glass trolley rather than carrying by hand where possible. I check the path is clear before moving anything, and I always carry glass vertically, not flat, to reduce the chance of it bowing and snapping. Cut edges get taped or covered until they're installed. On site I'm also watching for other trades working nearby, especially anyone on ladders or scaffolding above where I'm working, and I keep offcuts and broken glass in a dedicated bin, not loose on the ground."

3. You arrive on site and find the window opening is 5mm out of square from the specifications. What do you do?

Why they ask

Openings are rarely perfect in real buildings, so this tests judgement about when to adapt versus when to escalate rather than force a fit.

How to structure your answer

Judgement-under-pressure structure: assess the actual risk, weigh options, decide, and note when you'd involve someone else.

Example answer

"A 5mm variance is common enough that I'd handle it myself rather than stopping the job. I'd remeasure to confirm the exact discrepancy, then decide whether to pack out the frame evenly or have the glass recut slightly to compensate, depending on which gives the cleanest seal. If the gap were bigger, or the frame itself looked structurally off, I'd flag it to the site supervisor before proceeding, because forcing an ill-fitting pane can crack under stress later or fail the weatherproofing."

4. Tell me about a time you had to fix a glazing installation that didn't meet building code or had a defect.

Why they ask

Employers want evidence you catch and correct your own mistakes, or someone else's, rather than letting a defect pass.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a commercial fit-out, I inspected a run of glazing another crew had installed and found the sealant bead was inconsistent, leaving gaps that wouldn't have passed the weathertightness check. My task was to bring it up to standard before sign-off. I stripped back the affected sections, re-applied silicone sealant to a consistent bead width and re-checked alignment with a spirit level across each pane. The rework passed inspection on the next check and avoided a much bigger problem once the building was occupied and water ingress would have shown up."

5. What's the difference between tempered and laminated glass, and when would you use each?

Why they ask

Tests genuine product knowledge, since choosing the wrong glass type for the application is a compliance and safety issue.

How to structure your answer

Technical explanation paired with a practical application example.

Example answer

"Tempered glass is heat-treated so it's stronger than standard glass and breaks into small, less dangerous pieces, which makes it common in shower screens, glass doors and other spots where

impact safety matters. Laminated glass has a plastic interlayer bonding two sheets together, so it holds together when broken rather than shattering, which is why it's used in overhead glazing, balustrades and areas where fall-through risk needs to be managed. I choose based on the application and what the building code and AS 1288 require for that location, not just what's on hand."

6. How do you handle a situation where a client is unhappy with the finish of an installation?

Why they ask

Glaziers often work directly in occupied homes or finished commercial spaces, so this checks communication under mild conflict.

How to structure your answer

Communication approach: listen, assess whether the concern is valid, respond, and resolve.

Example answer

"I'd listen to exactly what they're unhappy with rather than assuming, since sometimes it's a genuine defect and sometimes it's a difference in expectation. If I can see a real issue, a gap in the bead, a smear on the glass, misalignment, I'll fix it on the spot if it's minor, or explain what's needed and when I can come back if it's not. If it's a design or spec issue outside my control, I'll explain clearly what was specified and loop in the site supervisor or builder rather than getting into an argument on site."